

MINUTES OF THE DOUGLAS PENSION COMMITTEE
SPECIAL SEPTEMBER MEETING
September 19, 2014

The following members were present:

Joe Lorenz	Lee Lazure	Tom Wheeler	PJ Morgan
Jennifer Beisheim	Mark Foxall	Patrick Bloomingdale	

Members Absent:

Ken Lant	Kathy Allen	Brad Alexander
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Bernie Monbouquette and Bill Ouren with the County Attorney, Maureen Matt, John Corrigan, attorney representing Maureen Matt, Maria Straley, sister of Maureen Matt, Andy Vuorela, son of Maureen Matt, Kathy Adair, Asst. Secretary and Debbie Otwell, Human Resources, were also present.

At 9.15 a.m. Lee Lazure called the meeting to order.

Bernie Monbouquette explained the procedural process on filing a disability application and the review process by Mutual of Omaha and also the appeal process. He informed the committee that Mutual of Omaha administers the Plan and reviews the application for determination of disability benefits. He explained the 1st level appeal is reviewed by Mutual of Omaha and was denied at that level. The 2nd level disability appeal is presented to the Pension Committee. Ms. Maureen Matt, a previous 911 Communication Operator has requested the 2nd level appeal to the Pension Committee. Ms. Matt is represented by attorney John Corrigan. Bernie presented Exhibits A-K for the record. John Corrigan presented a letter from Maureen's personal physician, Dr. James Steier which was marked Exhibit L. All committee members were supplied exhibits A-K prior to the meeting and Exhibit L as marked today.

At 9:19a.m. Lee Lazure asked John Corrigan and Maureen Matt if they would prefer to have the Special Meeting in closed session due to personal health information. Mr. Corrigan said they did prefer to have the meeting in closed session. With no other patrons present the meeting was closed.

Lee then turned the meeting over to John Corrigan to present his defense as to why Ms. Maureen Matt should be considered disabled and receive a pension disability from Douglas County Employees' Retirement Trust Fund. John reviewed Ms. Matt's employment history and the duties and responsibilities of a 911 Operator. He further explained Ms. Matt's medical condition, limitations and restrictions and the details of the past 12 – 18 months with her illness. He also reviewed the Douglas County Long-Term disability policy. Mr. Corrigan informed the committee members that Ms. Matt was already approved of Social Security Disability as of January 1, 2014. He further expressed the difficulty getting Social Security disability because of a tougher definition of disability. John Corrigan entered Ms. Matt's Social Security Disability Award letter which was marked Exhibit M and entered into the record.

Patrick Bloomingdale expressed concern why disability was denied and wanted to deliberate as a committee and requested that the committee go into Executive Session to discussion details presented. At 9:50a.m. Tom Wheeler made a motion to go into Executive Session for discussion of personal matters. The motion was seconded by Patrick Bloomingdale and motion carried. John Corrigan, Maureen Matt, Maria Straley and Andy Vuorela all stepped out.

At 10:10a.m. a motion was made by PJ Morgan and seconded by Mark Foxall to reconvene. Motion carried.

Tom Wheeler asked that Ms. Matt clarify that she was approved Social Security disability and she confirmed that was true. He asked the distinction between occupational disability and total disability. Kathy Adair gave a brief explanation.

Patrick Bloomingdale asked if Mutual of Omaha was aware that Ms. Matt was approved for Social Security Disability. Mr. Corrigan responded that Mutual of Omaha was aware because a faxed copy of the award letter was sent on 06/11/2014. John also informed the committee that Social Security Disability had the same medical records and information that Mutual of Omaha had.

Patrick Bloomingdale made a motion to overturn the disability denial for Maureen Matt based on the fact that she was approved by Social Security Disability. Motion to approve her disability benefits was seconded by PJ Morgan and motion carried 7-0.

There being no further business Mark Foxall made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Jennifer Beisheim. The regular monthly Pension Committee Meeting will be held on September 25, 201 in Room 903 Civic Center at 9:00am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Beisheim, Secretary